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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

## **St. James Mercy Hospital Board Opens Door for Continuation of Inpatient Services**

*Board action reaffirms partnership with UR Medicine*

**HORNELL, N.Y. (March 4, 2015)** – Following receipt of two new competitive proposals, the St. James Mercy Health System board of directors today unanimously re-affirmed its partnership with UR Medicine. As a part of the competitive review, UR Medicine proposed a plan for continuation of limited inpatient medical and surgical services. The plan remains subject to review, approval and funding by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and approval of the University of Rochester Trustees.

“We are delighted to reaffirm our commitment to our dedicated partner in UR Medicine, and we applaud the efforts of community leaders — Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan, in particular — who have fought tirelessly for a sustained inpatient presence,” said Jennifer Sullivan, president and CEO of St. James Mercy Hospital.

St. James Mercy Health first announced its intention to work with Rochester-based UR Medicine on a plan to preserve quality health care services in April 2014. Since its selection, UR Medicine and St. James have worked closely to refine a vision for healthcare in Hornell that builds upon the strength of the region’s healthcare landscape and ensures uninterrupted access to quality healthcare services for the city’s residents.

“Today’s announcement affirms UR Medicine’s commitment to our continued evolution to a sustainable, financially viable healthcare presence for Hornell and the surrounding communities,” said Sullivan. “This commitment comes from the highest levels of the University of Rochester, as evidenced by University President Joel Seligman’s presence at the Board meeting tonight.

“We remain steadfast in our shared commitment to the Hornell community,” said Mark Taubman, M.D., CEO of UR Medicine. “We are energized by the board’s affirmation of our path forward, and by the opportunity to create a lasting health care presence that will serve the community for many years to come.”

“The residents of Hornell deserve robust healthcare services that include inpatient beds,” said Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan. “We most definitely are headed in the right direction, and I will do all I can to support the efforts of St. James and UR Medicine in securing the necessary approvals and funding for this healthcare transformation.”

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**About St. James Mercy Hospital** - Founded in 1890 and based in Hornell, NY, St. James Mercy Hospital is a not-for-profit health organization sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy that provides care in Steuben and surrounding counties, with emphasis on the poor and underserved. St. James Mercy Hospital is a member of CHE Trinity Health, a multi-institutional network. For more information, visit [www.stjamesmercy.org](http://www.stjamesmercy.org).

**About UR Medicine** - UR Medicine operates Strong Memorial Hospital and Highland Hospital (both in Rochester), and Thompson Health (Canandaigua). UR Medicine also has formal collaborative clinical relationships with Jones Memorial Hospital (Wellsville), Nicholas Noyes Memorial Hospital (Dansville), and Wyoming County Community Health System (Warsaw).